

Listing of the claims:

1. (Currently amended) An apparatus comprising: a vacuum filler (3) for stuffing a casing (4) of any kind with a pasty substance, a clip module (1) for applying a clip (2) to a stuffed casing (4), and the clip module (1) ~~adapted to be~~ being driven by the vacuum filler (3).
2. (Previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the clip module (1) comprises a part (5) which is adapted to be rotatably driven by the vacuum filler (3).
3. (Previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the vacuum filler comprises a part (8) which is adapted to be rotatably driven and by means of which the clip module (1) can be driven.
4. (Previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the clip module (1) and the vacuum filler (3) have arranged between them a shaft (6), the shaft (6) being connected to the vacuum filler (3) for driving the clip module (1).
5. (Previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the clip module (1) comprises a displacer (7).
6. (Previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, and means provided for inserting one of a thread and a loop when the clips are being set.
7. (Previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, and a separator (16) is provided for separating respective portions.
8. (Previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, and a servomotor (9) of the vacuum filler (3) used for driving the clip module (1).

9. (Previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, and a control unit (10) is provided for controlling the stuffing, the portioning and the clipping.

10. (Previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, and a twist-off unit (11) is provided adjacent to a stuffing means of the vacuum filler (3).

11. (Previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, and an automatic suspension unit (12) for selectively suspending the casing (4) is provided, the suspension unit (12) being one of controlled and driven by the vacuum filler (3) and the clip module (1).

12. (Previously presented) A method of applying to a casing (4) of any kind a clip (2) by means of a clip module (1), said method comprising the steps of: stuffing the casing (4) with a pasty substance by means of a vacuum filler (3), separating the portions, applying a clip (2) by means of a clip module (1), and driving the clip module (1) by the vacuum filler (3).

13. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 12, wherein as to the separating step, the portions are separated from one another.

14. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 12, wherein the separation and the setting of clips take place, at least partly, at the same time.

15. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 12, wherein the casing (4) is suspended automatically when the clips have been set.

16. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 12, and wherein one of a thread and a loop is attached.

17. (Previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the shaft (6) is a horizontally-extending shaft.

18. (Previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the servomotor is adapted to be used for one of twisting off and for driving other functions.

19. (Previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the control circuit is provided for additionally one of positioning, clipping, and both positioning and clipping.

20. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 16, wherein the one of the thread and loop is attached when the clip (2) is being set.